

See two lieutenants live 'American Dream,' page 11

Border Eagle

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Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Jan. 28, 2005

MARE tests base response during ORI

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

The Laughlin Exercise Evaluation Team put base members to the test Tuesday during its first major accident response exercise of the year, Scarlet Hawk 05-01.

The exercise scenario, conducted for this week's operational readiness inspection, consisted of an unknown person crashing a tanker truck through a base fence, releasing a deadly chemical and causing casualties.

"Of all the exercises we will conduct this year, this one counts the most because the Air Education and Training Command inspector general was here to grade us on it," said Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfill, EET chief. "It gave us an opportunity to shine and show how the Laughlin team excels."

The IG provided the team a list of objectives that had to be met during the exercise. It was the EET's responsibility to plan the scenario and execute it as IG members shadowed evaluators.

The overall objective of the



Courtesy photo

During a Major Accident Report Exercise here Tuesday, the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron emergency responders demonstrated decontamination procedures with Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hatch, 47th Security Forces Squadron. The exercise, as part of the command's inspector general's assesment of the base during Laughlin's Operational Readiness Inspection which began Monday, shows how Laughlin responds to emergencies.

MARE was to evaluate the wing's ability to respond to a scenario and include procedures and checklists from

the wing's Full Spectrum Threat Response Plan, said Colonel Stanfield.

See 'ORI,' page 4

One XLER selected for promotion to major

During an Air Force official release of selection of officers to the rank of major, a Laughlin member was selected.

Among those selected, Capt. Scott Neumann of the 47th Medical Group was selected for promotion here at Laughlin.

Air Force officials selected 117 judge advocate general and medical service corps captains for promotion to major.

Officials said 139 officers were considered.

Because of different competitive categories, officials' project promotion results are to be released for line offi-

cers in about May and for nurse corps officers in about July. Under new procedures, promotion packages for line and nurse corps officers' competitive categories will be held until nine months before the first projected pin-on date.

There was no below-the-zone promotion opportunity to major. The results of the majors' boards are as follows:

Selection statistics in-the-promotion zone:

- 62 judge advocate general officers were selected from 73 considered for an 84.9 percent selection rate.
- 51 medical service corps officers

were selected from 56 considered for a 91.1 percent selection rate.

Selection statistics above-the-promotion zone:

- One judge advocate general officer was selected from two considered for a 50 percent selection rate.
- Three medical service corps officers were selected from eight considered for a 37.5 percent selection rate.

The entire list is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom/.

(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)

Newslines

Mandatory flu mist

The clinic is giving mandatory flu mist immunizations in Anderson Hall, classroom B from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

This is a mandatory immunization for all Active-duty members.

Enlisted promotion ceremony

An enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. Monday at the Club Amistad.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Karla Jordan at 298-5336.

Retirement ceremonies

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfill is scheduled for 10.30 a.m. Feb. 4 at Club XL. For details, call 298-5401.

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. John Crow is scheduled for 4 p.m. Feb. 4 at Heritage Park. For details, call Mary Heinrich at 298-5238.

Scholarship, grant available

The 2005/2006 Federal Employee Education and Assistance scholarship is now available for civilian federal employees and family members. Visit <http://www.feea.org> for an application.

The Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education grant, for active-duty, Guard, Reserve and family members, is available at <http://www.afas.org>.

Deployment stats

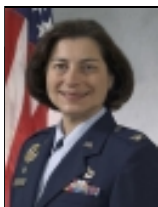
Deployed:	38
Returning in 30 days:	31
Deploying in 30 days:	2

Mission status

Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)

T-38C, 90.0%	T-1, 86.2%
T-38A, 70.9%	T-6, 94.5%

Retreat: Symbolic for many reasons



Commander's Corner

By Col. Teresa Daniell
47th Mission Support Group
commander

What a great opportunity we have every day at 5 p.m. Yet, I'd venture to say few of us make the effort to mark the event so we may participate purposefully and intentionally.

I am, of course, speaking of our daily ritual of retreat.

In the one minute 15 seconds it takes to play through the first verse of our national anthem, the story of how our fledgling country withstood a crucial night of fighting is replayed and our founding principle reiterated. What a great time retreat is to pause and be inspired again with the wonder of just what it means to be an American.

In one minute and 15 seconds each day, if we just stop and listen, we have all we need to swell our hearts and increase our pulse by the music that never fails to stir. We have plenty of time in less than two minutes to imagine a collage in our minds of snippets from our Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, Iwo Jima and a myriad other well-known and well-loved scenarios of our shared legacy. Or, perhaps we might imagine the faces of loved ones, of our comrades in arms, of schoolchildren reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Maybe, the scenes that flash through our minds during our 75 seconds of reflection are those of people voting in free elections, people listening to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s riveting speeches, or people worshipping as they choose.

Though many of the scenes we might associate with our flag

happened several years before the night in 1814 at Ft. McHenry, Md. that led to Francis Scott Key's composition, it nevertheless serves so well to remind us of any fight we have had to face.

Crystallized in two question fragments, the verse opens with a scene of continuity, of stability: "Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?" The two-part question was really an exclamation of elation and relief that an American stronghold had withstood the night of bombardment by the British. The flag was raised as a deliberate act of defiance at our enemy, to show them we're still here, and as an act of comfort to our fellow Americans to show we're still strong. Remember, how immediately after our Pentagon was attacked, we hoisted a flag over the charred remains of the wedge that was hit?

Remember the picture of our brave first responders who showed the colors to the world? The sentiments were the same in 2001 as they were in 1814 or any time we have unfurled our flag as a symbol of our presence.

The exuberantly posed question that opens our national anthem is followed by a statement of awe: "And, the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." I bet our recently returned deployers could eloquently describe the feelings Key had as he looked through his telescope from his vantage point on a truce ship some miles up the Patapsco River and saw that the American flag still soared above the fort. Key had witnessed the attack on



the fort and knew the sacrifices of its defenders to ensure the flag could fly. Our team members just returning from the desert have participated at the front of the war on terror. The rest of us have participated no less diligently or bravely in garrison at Laughlin Air Force Base.

It is an awesome sight to see our flag soaring above the base. Our flag remains a symbol of our freedom and reminds us of the reason our country was founded.

On Laughlin, we are privileged to hear music three times a day as testament to our way of life. Every morning during the week reveille calls us to tasks of the day. Each evening of the week taps bids the close of the day...though we know many of our teammates work through the night. And, it is retreat that sounds to remind us to pause in silent respect as we symbolically fold our colors for the night.

We all know that when we are outside walking, upon hearing the sound of retreat, we stop, face the flag if you can see it, or the music, and render appropriate salutes. When we are driving on base, we pull over to the right and pause till the music stops.

During that one minute 15 second rendition of our national anthem, we would do well to recall that, in fact, the answer to the last line of our anthem, another rhetorical question, is a resounding yes, because of what each of you do every day to protect our way of life..."Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Learning about host nation changes perspective

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

“Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America’s wars.”

– 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol
416th Air Expeditionary Wing
public affairs

KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan — In the global war on terrorism, Uzbekistan is an ally. Because of that, I have wanted to know more about the people since I got to Uzbekistan in late December.

Now to provide you a broader perspective, Uzbekistan is a country north of Afghanistan and was controlled by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

According to the U.S. State Department, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan suddenly found itself on the frontline of the war on terrorism and with increased strategic importance to the stability of Central Asia.

“With its central location, fast growing population, a variety of natural resources and a potential for a diversified economy, an open prosperous Uzbekistan is central to economic growth in the region,” the State Department’s country profile shows.

“Uzbekistan aspires to regional leadership and continues to be key in maintaining security in Central Asia.”

A profile is a good first step to learn about a foreign country. But to me, it is about the people. You really don’t know about a place until you meet them in person. That is something I learned nearly 13 years ago when I was assigned to my first base in the Azores, and it has carried through my career to places like England, Italy and Turkey, and more recently to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003. This time it happens to be Uzbekistan.

My first meeting with an Uzbek native took place recently with the reinvigoration of a tour exchange program here. The program, which started here in 2004, enables deployed American forces to visit an Uzbek

airfield, and in return, lets Uzbek air force members do likewise.

During our tour, I shook hands with several Uzbek airmen, but with one in particular, I was able to have a conversation through an interpreter. I learned he lived away from base and was very proud of the work he does for his country, something he and I had in common.

He also asked me what I thought of his country. Since I grew up, and currently live, in a northern climate where January is mighty cold, I told him I loved the mild winter weather here and the country is very beautiful with mountains and farmlands. I got a smile and another warm handshake.

Three days later, we had the Uzbek airmen visit us and wouldn’t you know it, one of the people in the group was the same fellow I had a conversation with three days prior.

After he walked around one of our planes, he made his way back to me and asked to have a picture taken with my camera of us together. I was taken aback by that, but not surprised. I could see I had made a friend even though we didn’t know each other’s name and he spoke Russian and I spoke English.

I also had a chance to accompany some Army officials here on a visit the city of Khanabad, which is a city of about 5,300 people. The Army, coincidentally, does an incredible job working with the local communities here to help with humanitarian assistance and human relations. They bring along deployed Air Force personnel to assist with orphanage and school visits, which take place quite frequently.

Our visit to Khanabad was familiarization and fact-finding. Our first stop there was with the mayor, Mr. Diyadov. This mayor is proud of his community and showed us through the streets. Once we finished touring the town, we stopped and visited with

“They were friendly and obviously thankful for everything they have. It is a sobering reminder of how important freedom and choices are to people.”

officials at the city’s school.

The day we were visiting happened to be Uzbekistan’s armed forces day holiday, and at about the time we were there they were preparing a celebration. When we met with the mayor earlier in the trip, there was a memorial in front of the town hall honoring all the town’s residents who died in conflicts past. It was like something I would find in my hometown back in the U.S. honoring our military veterans.

Back at the school, children were everywhere, playing in the courtyards and on the sidewalks. They were smiling and waving, and yet ever so curious about what we were doing. It was a pleasant sight.

On the way back to the base, what I saw reminded me of what I saw when I was walking the streets of Basra, Iraq, less than 18 months ago. There were people doing their every-day thing in the comfort of their own community. They were friendly and obviously thankful for everything they have. It is a sobering reminder of how important freedom and choices are to people.

Whether it was making a friend with an Uzbek airman or meeting a proud mayor, I can see that people here are good people. I didn’t find that out from a profile or from second-hand information. I have seen it and learned it from my host nation people.

Most importantly, I learned we have a wonderful ally in the global war on terrorism here. And it is through efforts in places like this that we will win this war, make more friends, and gain a new perspective.

ORI, from page 1

“Wing plans personnel, working jointly with the wing’s readiness office and unit control centers, worked vigorously for the past six months to train everyone on the newest aspects of the plan,” he added. “This (exercise) was a good test of the wing’s FSTR capabilities.”

Some of the challenges posed to base responders ranged from establishing cordon and entry-control areas and conducting decontamination procedures to demonstrating medical treatment of victims, doing next-of-kin notification procedures and contending with the media.

Crisis action team and disaster control group members, along with unit control centers, were other areas evaluated during the exercise.

A new feature recently added included computer network access for members located in the CAT and DCG. Each member was able to log onto computers and access their files and emails as if they were at their own workstation. They could even conduct live chat with people they had to coordinate with during the exercise scenario.

“One of the first marching orders (the wing commander) gave me was ‘operationalize the CAT and command post,’” said Col. Stanfill. “The wing has made great strides toward this endeavor. Notably, the CAT has upgraded its communications systems by installing computers so commanders can converse real time with unit control centers and functional representatives, and maintain connectivity with their day-to-day operations.”

The colonel added that the CAT improved its checklist format, incorporated the “battle rhythm” concept during all update briefings and increased audiovisual aids. In addition, he said the command post has worked diligently to improve its aircraft cross-country tracking procedures to

ensure information is more real-time and accurate.

Despite a couple of real-world events that put Tuesday’s exercise on hold for periods of time, the scenario was executed very well, said Colonel Stanfill.

“All initial responders, disaster control group personnel and command and control nets received a good work out,” he said. “The greatest compliment is that from start to finish, all personnel performed their actions in an absolutely safe manner.”

The EET chief stressed that it takes a lot of coordination to conduct an exercise this size.

“However, I always have the highest confidence everything will go well because the team is very experienced and squadron commanders have made sure that only the best are part of the team,” he said.

Planning started one week before execution and took long hours from the 20 EET members who participated in the exercise, the colonel said.

“On exercise day, the EET followed through with perfecting the timing of each of the 34 events that were scheduled,” he said. “Ultimately, we met, or exceeded every objective the IG wanted us to meet.”

Colonel Stanfill, who retires from 28 years of active duty service April 1, said he cannot think of a better way to end his Air Force service.

“I have been very actively involved in the ORI prep and enjoy the fact I have contributed to the wing’s success,” he said. “I want to personally thank all my EET members for the hard work and dedication they put in planning this exercise and for the past two years of unending support to me.”

Colonel Stanfill added that he takes pride in knowing the team has made a difference in the wing by “being ready to support our combat commanders and, ultimately, to make this the greatest Air Force the world has ever known.”



Laughlin Salutes

SUPT Class 05-04 awards

Daedalian award:
2nd Lt. Keil Gilliland

Academic award, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. William Schneider

Academic award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Andrew Baird

Flying training award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Adam Keith

Flying training award, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Matthew McNulty

Airlift/tanker Distinguished Graduate:
2nd Lt. Matthew McNulty

Fighter/bomber Distinguished Graduate:
2nd Lt. Adam Keith

Outstanding Officer of Class 05-04:
2nd Lt. Andrew Baird

AETC Commander’s Trophy, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Matthew McNulty

AETC Commander’s Trophy, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Andrew Baird

Outstanding 2nd Lieutenant Award:
2nd Lt. Andrew Baird

Citizenship award:
2nd Lt. Michael Alblinger

Fourth-Quarter awards winners

Airman:
Senior Airman Yvonne Watkins, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

NCO:
Tech. Sgt. Lashinya Crivens, 47th Mission Support Squadron

Senior NCO:
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cunningham, 47th MSS

Company Grade officer:
2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston, 47th Flying Training Wing

Civilian category I:
Gerald Costa Jr., 47th Maintenance Directorate

Civilian category II:
Joseph Pagan, 47th Maintenance Directorate

Civilian category III:
Raul Padilla, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Nonappropriated funds category I:
Joel Paredez, 47th Mission Support Group

Nonappropriated funds category II:
Tammi Byerly-Zahn, 47th MSG

Instructor pilot:
Capt. Douglas Shaffer, 84th Flying Training Squadron

Volunteer:
April Maughan, 47th MSG

Outstanding Dormitory:
Airman 1st Class Sadek Brandford, 47th ADS

Outstanding Dormitory suite:
Airman 1st Class Nicole Sefer, 47th Operations Support Squadron

Honor guard member:
Senior Airman Valeria Perchina, 47th Comptroller Squadron

Health and safety contributor:
Capt. Richard Kletschka, 47th OSS



Courtesy photo

A member of the ORI Evaluation team checks out how Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace, 47th Security Forces Squadron, carries out security procedures during a scenerio here which consisted of someone crashing his tanker truck through a base fence, releasing a deadly chemical and causing casualties.

3X10.5
Ricks



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Ammons

Combat hatcher...

First Lt. Charles Schuck fires an AIM-7 Sparrow medium range air-to-air missile from an F-15 Eagle over the Gulf of Mexico while supporting a Combat Archer air-to-air weapons system evaluation program mission. He and other Airmen of the 71st Fighter Squadron deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va., to Tyndall AFB, Fla., to support the program.

2X5 Military
media

Iraqi election: monumental moment for country

By Rudi Williams
*American Forces
Press Service*

BAGHDAD, Jan. 23, 2005 – The Iraqi election Jan. 30 will mark the beginning of a “powerful period” in the history of the country, the commander of the Multinational Corps Iraq said recently.

“Clearly for the war in Iraq, but also in the greater war on terrorism, this is a monumental moment we’re getting ready to go through,” said Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz. “All the corps’ efforts are directed to give every Iraqi the opportunity to vote if they want.”

Metz said the terrorist strategy is to intimidate their fellow Sunnis so they won’t vote in the election and then say the election is invalid. The main problems are in four majority-Sunni provinces: Anbar, Ninewa, Salah ad Din and Baghdad.

“We are working hard in those provinces to give people the chance to vote,” he said. “Every single vote is a vote against the old way of doing business and a vote for a new Iraq.”

And the election is feared by all enemies. “You wouldn’t have (terrorists Musab al) Zarqawi and (Osama) bin Laden coming up on the net opposing this election if it wasn’t important to them,” Metz said. “They care very much about this thing.”

The insurgents are a small group of people that want often opposing things. He said Zarqawi’s group wants to bring all Islam back to the Caliphate – the successors to Muhammad. The Baathist former regime elements “are nothing but a bunch of thugs who just want to be back in power,” he said.

If the coalition were not in Iraq, these two groups would be at each others’ throats. Now they are working together,

Metz said, “but they are on a path of collision.”

The men who carry out the attacks – and they are mostly men – are also a mixed lot. Some do it to feed their families, Metz said. They are unemployed and the insurgents pay them to attack Iraqi and coalition forces. “There’s a bunch out there who are criminals and enjoy the confusion because in that confusion it makes their criminal activities easier,” he said.

The insurgents are focused on Baghdad, he noted. “He doesn’t care how many (improvised explosive devices) we find, or how many (vehicle-borne) IEDs go off on the way to the target. He can invest a lot of time and money in the effort and only needs one to cause horrific casualties. The bottom line is Baghdad is where it’s at. This is the center of gravity. This is the place where, if he makes noise, it will be heard.”

Metz said he is proud of the troops and the professionalism they exhibit as they approach the mission. “We really have a force that knows how to fight the tactical battle,” he said. But the strategic battle is still up in the air.

He said that soon after the Marines and soldiers attacked in Fallujah in November 2004 he was confident that the tactical battle would be a victory. “We are still working on the strategic fight in the city,” he said.

All the districts of Fallujah are now open and people are returning. “But that win isn’t sealed until Iraqi security forces – mainly police – are re-formed and the city council governs and the city operates as a normal city,” he said.

The Iraqi forces are taking their part in the fight and learning with each exposure to battle, Metz said. They participated in the fight for Fallujah, and performed well. But the

Iraqi army needs leaders more than it needs equipment.

“I fly over this country and I see bunkers and vast fields where millions of tons of munitions were bought and stacked,” Metz said. “But there is more to warfare than material. There’s a whole big piece in there where the leadership has to come along with being able to fight a unit. We shouldn’t be surprised if that is coming along slowly. We’d all like to see it faster, but it is coming along.”

And those forces are what anti-Iraqi forces fear the most. “It is those forces that will help us get out of here,” he said. The Iraqi forces will allow the coalition to continue and expand the pressure on the insurgents.

All of this depends on Iraqis embracing the vote, but the security situation is tenuous in

some places in Iraq. “Can I guarantee that every voter is going to be safe? No,” he said. “I’d like to put a bubble over every voter. But we’re going to do all we can to help the Iraqis get to the polls.

“There will be ugly polling sites on the 30th,” he said. “But we’ve got to push on and have the vote and get on with the constitution and a fully elected government in place in a year.”

He said the battle in Iraq is just one part of the greater war on terrorism. “The global war on terrorism is a war of values,” he said. “People have got to decide which set of values they want to have.”

The United States must win the war and it will be decided by which population has the greatest will. “We have to express that will every single day and not get deterred when

we tragically lose a Bradley full of soldiers or another Iraqi police station,” Metz said.

He said the Nazis presented a tremendous challenge to democracy as did communism.

“Now there is a tremendous challenge to our way of life from global terrorism,” he said.

The battle in Iraq is also important for the future of Iraq. “It can lead the Iraqi people toward the prosperity they richly deserve – they have been a horribly repressed people,” Metz said. “It will take a generation for them to regain the initiative and understand the freedom they have. But I’m optimistic. I fly around the country and look down (at) all the little towns (that) have new houses going up. So someone else is optimistic out there too.”



Photo by Pat Watson

Steady as she goes...

A T-38A “carcass” is lifted onto a flatbed trailer for transport to Randolph Air Force Base. Up until recently, the 47th Flying Training Wing’s T-38 Aircraft Maintenance Division used the unserviceable aircraft as an approved supply source for hard-to-find aircraft parts. After local salvaging concluded, the aircraft was transferred to Lear Siegler Services, Inc. (LSI) at Randolph AFB Jan. 22.

4X11
Ricks

Annual
awards
banquet
scheduled

The Wing Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Fiesta Center.

Cocktails will start at 6 p.m.

The dress for this event is Mess Dress or semi-formal for military members and semi-formal or “after-6” dinner attire for civilians.

Menu choices are: London Broil, Stuffed Pork Tenderloin, and Baked Cod Filet.

Cost for the event is \$19.00 for club members and \$21.00 for nonmembers.

All attendees will receive a memento of the event.

Contact your unit point of contact to sign up for the event or for additional questions call Senior Master Sgt. Elijah Hussey at 298-5703 or Master Sgt. Rufino Gonzales at 298-5448.

1X3

Cinema

3X10 Plaza Del Sol Mall

Airmen passing relief operation to UN-led team

By Capt. David Westover
374th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

UTAPAO, Thailand — The more than 850 deployed Airmen from bases around Pacific Air Forces are preparing to head home.

PACAF aircrews, maintainers and mission support Airmen have been here supporting Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian effort delivering relief supplies to several countries in Southeast Asia affected by tsunamis Dec. 26.

As the U.S. military completes its emergency relief portion of the mission, the United Nations, the World Food Program and other organizations will take over the relief effort, officials said.

“I’m very proud of the people who have made this relief effort possible,” said Col. Mark Schissler, 374th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “Especially our Airmen . . . who’ve sweated and worked hard to make every mission successful.

It’s remarkable that our Air Force has flown more than 850 sorties and almost 2,500 hours, delivering over 4 million pounds of humanitarian aid as part of a joint and inter-

national team.

“I could not be happier with the incredible performance of our expeditionary unit,” said Lt. Col. Charles Eastman, 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. “Though no one really could have anticipated a tragedy of this magnitude, we train every day in preparation for possible contingencies,” he said. “As a result, this time when our nation called, we were clearly ready.”

“It’s great to see how all the training on a daily basis at home pays off in the field,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Van Gordon, 36th EAS maintenance flight superintendent. “When you can see results everyday and know what you are doing is helping so many people, it just feels good to be part of the team.”

Air Force officials said they plan to redeploy all assets in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand over the next several days.

“We’ve nearly completed our mission here, providing the emergency relief that thousands of people desperately needed,” Colonel Schissler said. “And I’m pleased to say that we’re turning this operation over to a very capable and resourceful UN-led team here in the region.”

2X3 Rapid
TAX

Course changes enhance enlisted professionals

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials recently standardized enlisted professional enhancement courses and changed the supervisory structure for career assistance advisers and First Term Airman’s Center course managers.

These changes enhance enlisted professionals by linking formal training, education and on-the-job training to develop Airmen’s technical skills and leadership abilities, officials said.

“We have tremendous talent within our ranks and we owe (Airmen) the opportunity to develop their abilities and recognize their potential,” Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said.

More than two years ago, Chief Murray and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper created a developmental roadmap to grow capable leaders through exposure to the right train-

ing, education and experience. This led to the implementation of the Enlisted Professional Enhancement Program, officials said.

To foster that development, the career assistance adviser now has functional oversight of enhancement courses and the center.

The adviser will be assigned directly under the mission support squadron commander and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the center reports to the adviser. Both will be hired locally. The adviser will be a master or senior master sergeant serving for two years. The center supervisor will be a staff or technical sergeant serving for one year.

The career assistance adviser structure provides standardization for enlisted force development programs, said Senior Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, superintendent of the career management branch.

“The original intent of the career assistance advisers was to serve as reten-

tion warriors for the wing. However, (their role) has evolved, and we are calling on them to assist with force-development and force-shaping initiatives.”

Before standardization, base commanders created a variety of education programs to augment professional military education.

“While some of these programs were excellent, they lacked consistency from base to base,” Chief Murray said. “With this initiative, we’ll have a solid curriculum to provide Airmen at every base the same foundation while still allowing flexibility to adapt to meet local needs.”

There are now four standardized courses:

— Senior NCO professional enhancement is designed for Airmen selected for master sergeant. This mandatory course must be at least three to five days long.

— NCO professional enhancement targets NCOs who have not attended formal professional military education within the past three years. Half of each

base’s NCOs who meet the criteria must attend the course.

Course length is also three to five days.

— FTAC is designed for Airman assigned to their first duty station. It lasts 10 to 15 duty days. All newly assigned Airmen must attend.

— The Right Decision Seminar targets first- and second-term Airmen, regardless of rank, who are 12 to 15 months away from their date of separation. Attendance for first-term Airmen is mandatory.

“There is a core curriculum that must be taught along with some suggested material,” she said. “But there’s flexibility for commanders to add courses to meet local needs or requirements, as long as it all fits into the time limit.”

Air Force officials will complete the new instruction, AFI 36-2624, the Career Assistance Adviser and Enlisted Professional Enhancement Programs, before setting an implementation date for the new courses.

2X2 Amistad TAx

2x4 UPSTAGER

3x6
AANGEL
FIRE RE-
SORT

New Hazmat building expands services to residents

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack
Public Affairs

Laughlin residents now have a place to bring their paints, cleaners and other hazardous household items when they find themselves in a bind for storage or clearing out items they can't pack for their permanent change of station move.

Instead of piling these gently used cleaners and items in the garbage can to be hauled away to the local landfill, they can now drop them off at the hazardous materials (hazmat) office.

The new (hazmat) building, equipped with 2,000 feet of storage space, expanded their services to include a recycling program.

They have been tracking hazmats for the work area since 1996, but with the added space, they can now offer a free-issue service for base residents and courtesy storage space for industrial patrons.

"This (building) will as-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack

The hazardous materials office recently moved to a new facility located next the Mission Support squadron. The building provides 2,000 square feet of storage space to residents and industrial patrons.

sist us in accomplishing our goals of promoting environmental awareness and reducing the amount of waste going into landfills," said Dena Shadwick, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron hazardous materials program manager.

"Through the free-issue

program, base residents can bring in hazardous materials they no longer use to be stored at the facility until they can be re-issued to another resident," said Ms. Shadwick. "For each item the residents' pick up they must sign a hold harmless

agreement, releasing the facility's reliability."

"We accept items such as paint, cleaners and super glue, as long as they are still useable, at least a quarterfull and labeled," Ms. Shadwick said. "We can't accept hazardous waste or unknown material."

She explained that if they can't identify the item, it has to be sent offsite for testing.

This would significantly increase their operating costs and may even cause the government to re-evaluate the new program.

Aside from providing storage and free-issue services for base residents, the facility also provides this courtesy to industrial patrons.

"At the shop level they are only allowed a seven to 10-day supply of products, said Ms. Shadwick. "This new building allows the shops to house their extra supplies here until they are ready to be used, alleviating

potential non-compliance with Air Force Instruction 32-7086.

With environmental laws getting more stringent and pollution prevention on everyone's mind, a lot of bases are just now getting the free-issue program for industrial worksites," said Ms. Shadwick. "Laughlin is one of the first Air Force bases to extend the program to include households."

Getting the new program approved did have its challenges, she said.

It was her vision that began the process.

After drafting the proposal for submission to the wing commander and vying for state approval, the measure was approved Jan. 14.

"We had to start from the ground up," Ms. Shadwick said.

But it was well worth the effort.

According to the guidelines, it is estimated that the new program will save 2,000 pounds of hazardous material from being dumped in local landfills annually, said Ms. Shadwick.

"Now each person on this base has the opportunity to take part in what the environment will be like for future generations," Ms. Shadwick said.

The center is located in Bldg. 75, next to the mission support squadron. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. are designated hours for resident services, but they will not turn anyone away with an urgent need.

They will continue to remain open Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for industrial patrons.

Please call 298-4351 for additional information.



Carol Rodriguez, a 47th Civil Engineer Squadron administrative assistant, inspects hazardous materials in one of the five storage rooms of their new facility. The hazmat office recently expanded their program to include a new recycling program for base residents.

Two Lieutenants live the ‘American Dream’

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack
Public Affairs

As National Freedom Day approaches it's important to recognize why this day is marked on the calendar every year.

This day was established when one brave American fought to create a time where all Americans could celebrate freedom; Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, chose Feb. 1 because it was the same day the 13th amendment was signed to abolish slavery in the United States.

According to America's library Web site, the purpose of this day is to promote good feelings, harmony and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

These feelings served as the framework for the lives of two lieutenants currently serving in the Air Force.

They began their extensive journey in Mexico City. Their father, who was the sole supporter of the family, held a good job in sales, while their mom worked as a secretary. They lived a comfortable, middle-class life.

The security they were accustomed to early on in life came to a halt when the young boys were only eight and nine years old.

Their father suffered from a heart attack and passed away, leaving the mother and two boys on their own.

This tragedy brought many changes to their lives.

Today, the new lieutenants are working as contracting officers in the Air Force; Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal's is stationed here, and his brother, Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal, is stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The now single-income family of three suddenly found themselves struggling to make ends meet. Their mother held three jobs, not just to pay the bills but also to set aside money for the boys to attend school.

"This (school) was always a major priority for her," said 2nd Lt. Eric Alonso-Bernal.

This unconditional love and kindness from their mother would make a significant impact on the boys but left no extra money to pay for babysitters. The two were often left at home alone

to raise themselves.

They walked several miles a day to get back and forth from school, but the challenges didn't end when they got home. Instead of coming home to hit the books, as some children do, they were thrust into the responsibility of maintaining a household.

Through all of their struggles, the boys were able to witness at a very young age the sacrifice their mother made for them.

"We were inspired by the hard work and great attitude our mother showed as a single parent," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.

When their mom became overwhelmed by the long hours and time away from her sons she decided to make a change. She and the boys packed up and headed to Piedras Negras, Mexico, to stay with family.

After that Eric, decided to go back to Mexico City, where he could get the education his mom hoped for.

While attending college in Mexico for a year and a half, the brothers soon learned they wanted more out of life. They wanted to achieve the "American Dream." They came back to the U.S. to strive for this goal.

"We spoke no English but we had the drive to succeed in a new country, new culture and new language," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.

With that determination they took jobs as waiters, knowing very little English, and dedicated themselves to learning the language.

They found a program at the local library, which taught a free English class at night. Their instructor knew no Spanish and they knew no English, but were able to learn the language well-enough in six months to move on to their next venture.

Through family contacts, they were both able to secure jobs as correctional officers for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"It was an interesting experience, but I knew I didn't want to do it for the rest of my life," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.

Meanwhile, his brother, Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal, was navigating other options and sought out and joined the Air Force.

"He told me about all of the great benefits the AF had to offer and con-



Courtesy Photo

Second Lt. Eric Alonso-Bernal (left) and the OTS cadet Edgar Alonso-Bernal (right) pose for a photo Nov. 10 following Officer Training School graduation for Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal. The two lieutenants endured many challenges before arriving at this moment.

vinced me to join," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.

After working as a correctional officer for four years Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal decided to take his brother's lead and joined the Air Force.

"Both of us were enlisted members in the accounting and finance career field; Edgar was at Malmstrom AFB, Mont. and I was at Maxwell AFB, Ala.," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal. "While stationed at these locations we both received our citizenship."

The two young men were enjoying Air Force life, but were still focused on their goals ahead.

They continued to work hard as enlisted members and were recognized for their efforts by achieving several awards.

Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal continued his education through the bootstrap program to earn a bachelor's degree in business and administration. Upon returning to his duty station he received his master's degree in business and management by attending night classes.

When Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal felt he achieved his educational

goal, he gathered the support of his superiors and applied for Officer Training School.

Meanwhile, his brother was completing his bachelor's degree.

As Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal was attending OTS in April, his brother Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal was applying for the OTS program and was able to come to witness his graduation.

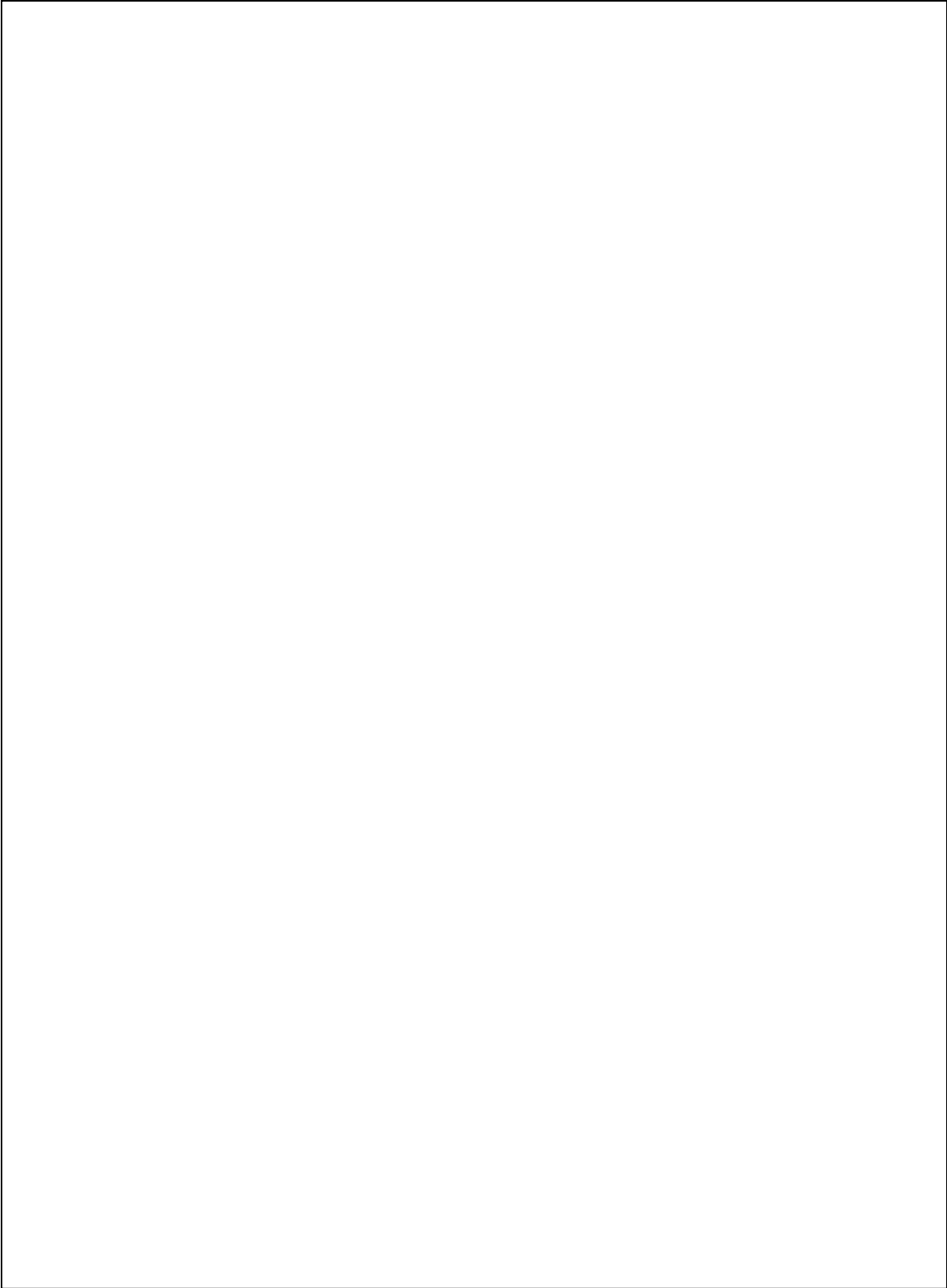
"My brother gave me my first salute, said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal. "And the great news that he was going to OTS."

The dynamic duo met up again at Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal's OTS graduation.

"I had the pleasure to commission my brother Nov. 10, 2004," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.

Both are happily married: Lieutenant (Edgar) Alonso-Bernal has two kids; a 3-year-old and a newborn, and Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal's wife is due in April.

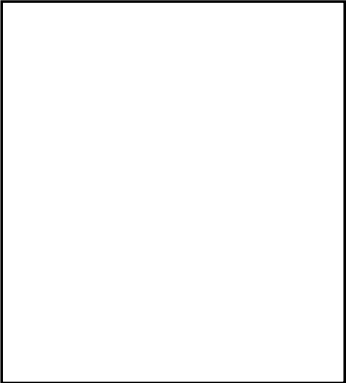
We are truly living our "American Dream," said Lieutenant (Eric) Alonso-Bernal.



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The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil> or call Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355.



The *XLer*

Charles Moser
47th Maintenance Division



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Hometown: Las Cruces, N.M.
Family: Mother, brother and sister
Time at Laughlin: Two years, 6 months
Time in civil service: Ten years plus Air Force active duty
Greatest accomplishment: Commander's dedicated crew chief award on the AT-38B aircraft at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. and working at Laughlin AFB
Hobbies: Fishing, working out, and working on Electronic Career Development Courses (CDCs)
Bad habit: Eating too much
Favorite movie: "Top Gun"
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Al Plouffe... To interview him for a hangar position in the T-38 section.

Chapel information



Catholic	
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	● Mass, 12:05 p.m.
<i>Saturday</i>	● Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
<i>Sunday</i>	● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
<i>Thursday</i>	● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.
Protestant	
<i>Wednesday</i>	● Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.
<i>Sunday</i>	● General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater
Chaplain Staff	
<i>Wing chaplain:</i>	Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
<i>Senior Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
<i>Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
<i>Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

2X3

2X2

Commissary hours

The commissary is open:

Tuesdays

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesdays

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursdays

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mondays

Closed



XL Fitness Center hours

298-5251

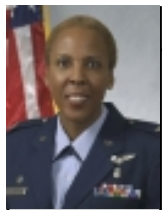


Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Remember
to stay
hydrated
during
workouts .



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: I want to complain about something that happened during my clinic appointment yesterday.

Is there someone I can make an appointment with to discuss my concern?

Answer: Absolutely, and I am sorry that you had a negative experience during your visit to our clinic. Our staff works very hard to ensure that every customer is treated with dignity, respect, and they make every effort to ensure quality, hassle-free service.

When things don't go well and you need to voice a complaint, we

have several processes in place to ensure you have easy access to someone who can offer a rapid response to your concerns. The best option is always to address your concerns immediately with the individual involved. Many issues involve misunderstanding in communication that are easily resolved when addressed directly.

If you prefer, it is also acceptable to ask to speak to the section supervisor or the section leader.

In addition,



section has a dedicated Patient Advocate who is available to address your concerns. Simply ask to speak to them and our staff will personally ensure your question or concern is addressed. Also, customer feedback forms are conveniently located in all of our patient care areas; you can either state a complaint anonymously, or put your name and contact number to receive a personal response.

Lastly, our Medical Group Patient Advocate is Lieutenant Matt Wolthoff. Please request to speak to him, or contact him directly if you would like to make an appointment to discuss your issue in person. He can be reached at 298-6368. Thanks for your question!


You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torresreyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack

Can you...?

Three-time "World's Strongest Man" titleholder, Bill Kazmaier, folds a frying pan in front of a stunned crowd at the XL Fitness Center gymnasium Tuesday. Mr. Kazmaier began lifting at age 10 and has since won numerous power lifting competitions around world. Laughlin is one of the many stops he will make during his tour throughout the Air Education and Training Command to promote fitness and weight training.

February							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thur	Fri	Sat
Club XL 298-5374 Fiesta Center 298-5474 Frame Skills Center 298-5153	Book Mark Library 298-5119 Cactus Lanes 298-5526 or 298-4818 Club Amistad 298-5346	1 Post ORI Party 4 p.m. at Club XL	2 Youth Center 298-5343 XL Fitness Center 298-5251 Outdoor Recreation 298-5830	Club Amistad BINGO - 6:45 p.m. Cards go on sale at 6 p.m.	3 	4	5
6	7 Southwinds Marina Winter Texan BBQ 1 to 4 p.m.	8 Fiesta Center Ping Pong Tournament 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. thru Feb. 11	9		10 Southwinds Marina Lake Familiarization 1 to 3 p.m.	11 Dental Health Month at the Book Mart Library 10:30 a.m.	12 Frame Crafts Framing and Matting Class 1 to 3 p.m. Give Parents a Break at CDC & YC Creative Night 6 to 11 p.m. Club XL Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance 6 p.m.
13	14	15 Free Member's Only Breakfast at Club XL 6:30 - 8 a.m.	16 Family Night at the Fiesta Center 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.		17	18	19 Front Brake Class Auto Craft Center 10 a.m.
20 Club XL Sunday Brunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	21 Presidents' Day	22	23		24 Wood Crafts Woodworking Class 6 to 7:30 p.m.	25	26 Fiesta Center Flea Market 9 a.m. to noon Arts & Crafts Folk Art Painting Class 1 to 4 p.m.



Special events

1
TUE Children can pick up coloring sheets for the “**Be My Valentine**” coloring contest at the Book Mark Library thorough Feb. 19. The winners in the 5 and under and 6 to 10 year-old categories receive a coupon for one free large pizza from Pepperoni’s! For more information, call 298-5757.

6
SUN Watch the **Super Bowl** at Club Amistad for a chance to win an X-box with the Madden NFL 2005 game and NFL.com gift certificates. One Laughlin Air Force Base winner will take home the recliner provided by Rick’s Furniture (no federal endorsement intended). Participants can also enjoy food and beverage specials, and more. For more information, call 298-5346.

12
SAT Make it a night to remember and treat your special someone to the Valentine’s Dinner and Dance at Club XL. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and features 12 ounces of prime rib, oysters on the half shell with sauce, salad, baked potato, steamed vegetables, New York cheesecake and a glass of red wine. Cost is

\$50 per couple. Call 298-5134 for reservations.

15
TUE Club members can enjoy a free breakfast from 6 to 8 a.m. Menu items include eggs, bacon, hash browns, orange juice and coffee. For more information, call 298-5134.

26
SAT Check-out the Fiesta Center’s Flea Market from 9 a.m. to noon. Tables are available for \$5 each. No commercial items will be sold. For more information, call 298-5474.



Food for thought

Cactus Lanes serves lunch
Daily lunch specials from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Mondays - Brisket Sandwich
- Tuesdays - Chicken Parmasean Sandwich
- Wednesdays - Lasagna Plate
- Thursdays - BBQ Sandwich
- Fridays - Chicken Fried Steak

Pepperoni’s! open for dinner
Sundays thru Thursdays - 4 to 10 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays - 4 to 11 p.m.

Lunch at Silverwings SnackBar
Mondays thru Friday - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Club XL is open for lunch
Enjoy daily lunch specials from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or order from the menu:
Mondays - XL Honey Mustard Chicken Sandwich
Tuesdays - Meatball Sub
Wednesdays - Fajita Plate
Thursdays - Pork Schnitzel
Fridays - Shrimp Romana

Check out dinner specials at Club XL
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. or order from the menu:

- Tuesdays
Prime Rib - prime rib with au jus, vegetables and choice of potato.
- Wednesdays
Chicken Burgandy - A boneless chicken breast served with a rich red wine sauce and vegetable of the day.
- Thursdays
Mexican Plate (Thursday and Feb. 10) - Enjoy two enchiladas, one taco and a seasoned slice of meat.
Mongolian Barbeque (Feb. 17) - Choose your favorite ingredients from our line.
For Steak (Feb. 24) - 8 ounce New York steak with choice of potato and vegetables.